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CURRENT LITERATURE

MINOR NOTICES

Malayan ferns.—This work¹ presents in a single volume a synoptical treatment of all ferns known to occur in the Malayan Archipelago; its elaboration has been carried on mainly at Buitenzorg, where the facilities for studying dried and living material of this group of plants are exceptionally good. A compendium of the families, tribes, and genera introduces the body of the work; and the sequence of families, the limitation of genera, and the nomenclature are for the most part in accordance with ENGLER and PRANTL'S *Natürlichen Pflanzenfamilien*. Fairly concise and clear keys precede the carefully drawn descriptions whenever the genus consists of two or more species, and the bibliography and synonymy are given in some detail; but it is unfortunate that the author has cited so few exsiccatae. The extended spacing and the numerous blank pages make the volume unnecessarily bulky. Moreover, the appendix of some 58 pages, treating principally of ferns discovered after January 1, 1907, and 11 pages of "additions, modifications, and corrections" which the author suggests "may be cut out and pasted on the places indicated" will mar materially the practical use of the work. It would seem almost as though publication might better have been delayed until such necessary additions and corrections could have been incorporated in the body of the text. On the whole, however, the work represents careful collation, combined with a large amount of original research, and presents in available and reliable form a comprehensive treatment of approximately 1500 species and numerous varieties, representing 10 families and 95 genera. The book doubtless will find a useful place in the taxonomic literature of ferns.—J. M. GREENMAN.

Warming's *Ecology of plants*. A correction.—My attention has been called to an unfortunate error in my review of WARMING'S *Ecology*,² viz., the statement that the work was written in English by the author, assisted by Dr. VAHL. As a matter of fact the work, as it has appeared, is a translation by Professors BALFOUR and GROOM from manuscript prepared by Professor WARMING and Dr. VAHL. My mistake was due to the statement on the title-page: "prepared for publication in English by PERCY GROOM," etc. (which might have been less vague if printed: "translated from manuscript," etc.), and by a personal knowledge of WARMING'S facility in the English language. It is certainly scant

¹ VAN ALDERWERELT VAN ROSENBURGH, C. R. W. K., Malayan ferns. Handbook to the determination of the ferns of the Malayan Islands (incl. those of the Malay Peninsula, the Philippines, and New Guinea). Royal 8vo. pp. xl + 899 + 11. Batavia: Landsdrukkerij. 1908.

² BOT. GAZETTE 48: 149-152. 1909.